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FEB 27 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

02-277

225 Documents

Written Presentations

Chairman & Commissioners

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dkt. 02-277

From: Kathleen Abernathy
To: KAUINN
Date: Fri. Jan 31, 2003 4:02 AM
Subject: Fwd: Consider The Needs Of Children!

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FEB 27 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: sangfrost@aol.com
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Fri, Jan 31, 2003 4:02 AM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,

I urge the FCC to consider the distinct needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in the development of children.

The relaxation of media ownership rules will result in significantly less original programming for children. Relaxation also will reduce competition, potentially stifling innovation and increasing commercialism in children's programming.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Nancy Frost
2650 Freshwater Rd
Eureka, California 95503

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Mike Thompson

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FEB 27 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From: Larry Reed
To: Michael Copps
Date: Fri, Feb 7, 2003 3:53 AM
Subject: Urgent! From: Larry K. Reed Former Candidate To Become USA Vice President 2001

Larry K. Reed

Former Primary 98 Candidate

To Become California Lieutenant Governor

PO Box 338, Mira Loma, Riverside County, CA 91752

(909) 681-2338 (909) 312-6334

larrykreed@sbcglobal.net uncorrupt@pe.net

<http://www.uncorruptible.com> <http://pages.prodigy.net/larryk.reed/Page2.html>

<http://lwww.larrykreed.com>

Date: February 7, 2003

Attention: The Federal Communication Commission [FCC]

Commercial Broadcasting Division

To Whom It Should Concern:

I would like to ask your administration a question?

What do you think can be done about the various commercially broadcasted television affiliations, celebrities, newscasters, guests and prisoners who continue to **use** prestige to impose unconstitutional leverage, suspicion, and death threats upon others and my family.

The licensed broadcasting stations have (some way or another) been continuously providing an opening for the entertainment world to unconstitutionally eavesdrop and impose unlawful repressive tactics against one person, or another. And they tend to deceptively utter and claim they are providing a service on behalf of society, the police, and government, etc.!

With **all** due respect, I am writing this letter out of sheer concern and necessity as a dedicated public servant and citizen. To summarize my recent attempts to inform you of this situation let me begin here. **As** I have mentioned to your commission before, I have contacted the office of the United States President, USA Attorney General and State Attorney General about this activity. I had briefly described this activity to your commission approximately **4** months ago and I also stated I had submitted an application for an appointment with the office of the United States Presidential administration. [regarding commercial/public broadcasting and policy.]

Please also realize I requested an application to start my own commercial broadcasting station in the past and I know that what I am complaining about is far outside the boundaries of the US Constitution and laws to do with providing a public service and use of broadcasting time. I also know that the activity of electronic eavesdropping and the repressive tactics deployed by various newscasters and celebrities are really criminal and outside the US Constitution and Bill of Rights; regarding the 1983/1984 House of Representatives document concerning entertainers and drug use.

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FEB 27 2003

**Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary**

My aim is to help the commission realize how damaging these activities are.

Although, I had speculated in 1985 and even today if the licensed television and radio stations had been taken over by various radicals and people involved in the War against Drugs, etc.! I respectfully request that you tell, or officially write the television and radio stations letting them know they could lose their broadcasting license and rights to profit if they continue to allow militantly inclined criminals minds, warmongers or radicals to have television time.

I have become weary of these activities, and I hope your administration can handle what I have asked. Because it is of grave concern to me and my family, who have been directly affected by the activities.

Best Wishes.

Sincerely,

Larry K. Reed [electronically signed]

Larry K. Reed

Former Primary 98 Candidate To Become California Lieutenant Governor

The Uncorruptible Committee: Nationwide Campaign IDC00341750 Statewide ID 970013 Former
Candidacy: USA Vice Presidential ID P00003772

From: George L. Back
To: Michael Copps
Date: Fri, Feb 7, 2003 12:15 PM
Subject: Further broadcast ownership consolidatio

Dear Commisioner Copps, I appreciate your efforts to continue tthe discussion on consolidation because any further "deregulation" in this area will not make the marketplace for TV content more competitive, in fact it will have the opposite effect. As a working dean at a School of Communication, where the majority of our majors will seek to work in broadcast or tv production, further concentration will diminish the number of career opportunities. Fewer companies will create **less** programming as localism disappears, as has been the case in the Clear Channel radio markets. Also, in addressing the issues of access and content to an ever more diverse audience, we might begin to question issues of consolidation. For example, what does consolidation do to issues of multiple "voices" and the concerns of those without access. At this point in time when the promise of the digital television era is quickly approaching and all that it will mean in fulfilling our government's commitment to the people as the trustees of the airwaves, should we place the future of the tv democracy in fewer hands. There are many of **us** who had hoped that the digital era would end scarcity as an issue for broadcast tv. Further consolidation will destroy any hopes for that. Thank you for the chance to offer these comments, if asked I would be glad to offer more.

sincerely, George Back, Ph.D., School of Communication, Hofstra University

From: Robert.Rafn@libertysite.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: Mon, Feb 10, 2003 3:50 PM
Subject: <No Subject>

Dear FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps.

I have just learned (via a small community-supported radio station) that you are considering further loosening the restrictions on ownership of media outlets in the **US**. I am writing to request that you please not do **so**, and that you instead move towards greater restrictions on media ownership.

I am very concerned about what is happening with our public airwaves in the United States, and the fact that I found out at such a late date about your upcoming decision is indicative of one reason why I am concerned. NBC, CBS, ABC and Fox have an unprecedented monopoly over the use of my property - the public airwaves - and yet they have chosen not to inform me and the rest of the American public of this upcoming decision. Why? Because they stand to profit from it, and how I and the American public might feel about that is irrelevant to them. All they care about is that we watch the commercials and buy.

In the early days of television, there was at least an attempt to require broadcasters to serve the public. That goal has increasingly fallen by the wayside. Americans are relying on you to be a watchdog over this industry and to ensure that they are serving **us** - we need you to do your job and listen to **us**, rather than to broadcast industry reps with a vested interest in grabbing as much of our airwaves as possible.

Why am I **so** concerned about the idea of fewer broadcast companies controlling more and more of the broadcast spectrum and more and more of our news media? I am concerned because their profit motive conflicts with a necessary desire to provide complete, relevant and accurate news that best serves the public interest. Their lack of reporting on your upcoming decision is but one small example of this. But further, when fewer companies control the airwaves, the range of ideas and issues vital to a democracy gets more and more limited. Particularly at a time like we're in now, we need more ideas to be heard in our country, not **less**. Our media are supposed to be there to question and expose the actions of the powerful, yet by further loosening ownership requirements, you are increasingly turning them into the powerful that need to be exposed.

Of greatest concern to me is that with each decision like this that you make, you create an atmosphere where your decisions will be harder and harder to reverse if it is determined that fewer companies controlling our media is not serving the public good. Say, for example, that due to your decision, 3 companies come to control all TV stations, radio stations and newspapers in the **US**. They decide what will and will not be said in those media. **Let's** say hypothetically that this arrangement works out wonderfully for a few years, but at some point a new leadership takes over those 3 companies, and the new leadership decide that it serves their mutual business interest to convince the American public to bring back slavery, for example. Every newscast that they present on TV supports this opinion, slick PR people are brought in to generate unrelated news stories that also seem to support this idea, and with no other information to go on, American public sentiment begins to shift back towards embracing slavery.

Clearly fanning the flames of racism and encouraging slavery is not in the public interest. Yet what would you do to stop these 3 sole media giants from proceeding with their agenda? You will have made them so powerful that they can squelch any attempts you make to put the brakes on them, and if you get too much in their way they can simply convince the

public that the **FCC** needs to be disbanded.

This is just an example, and probably not the greatest or most believable one, but my point is that your decision is moving **us** towards an increasingly irreversible corporate media power structure with a stranglehold on our free flow of information. I urge you to reconsider your upcoming decision, and to work towards establishing regulations and structures that will enable the public to have more control and accountability over their media. The decision you are considering has the potential to do tremendous and permanent harm to our democracy, and I need you to hear and heed that concern.

Sincerely,

Robert Rafn
P.O. **Box** 75363
St. Paul, **MN** 55175

From: Charles W Rhodes
To: Michael Copps
Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2003 1:55 AM
Subject: democracy and media ownership limitations

Dear Mr. Copps,
Please vote against the relaxing of media ownership laws.

Please do not allow the robber-barons of media to further consolidate media ownership in America. This cannot **be** good for democracy, and it is your job to guard against the tyranny of a situation where all significant America media is in the hands of a few billionaires.

Below is a letter I've sent to many in Congress.

Thank You

Chuck Rhodes

Letter:

The FCC is about to change the rules that limit the ability of a single entity to own multiple media outlets in a given region or market.

These rules were created in the **40's** in order to prevent a small group of people from monopolizing our media. Of course, for the most part, it's too late. But to allow the FCC to do undo these last remaining safeguards would be a great **loss** to our stability and security.

We need many more voices in our democracy. Currently, 10 wealthy corporations own 90% of the media capacity in the **US**. It is not an exaggeration to say that the ultra wealthy already control what most people hear. And these ultra wealthy are the same people giving large political contributions and getting people elected to office - to do their bidding.

So, when too few voices dominate, the media are unresponsive to complaints about the federal government, and unwilling to take up legitimate causes and inquiries that challenge the federal government.

When the media do not question and appropriately embarrass the federal government, the government becomes unresponsive to citizens and increasingly corrupt. The media and government are already unresponsive to very legitimate, widely held grievances.

When grievances go unaddressed, resentment, alienation and disenfranchisement build. The result is often instability and violence - or as in our current situation; egregious spin, omission, distraction and intimidation from an increasingly monolithic media-government. Of course this deception will only hold back public resentment temporarily.

And the situation is going from bad to worse

The Bush administration is systematically dismantling the checks and balances necessary for our democracy to work:

There is a blatant sell-out of our federal government to big industry. (Enron wrote our national energy policy; pharmaceuticals get the Congress to maximize their profits, the feds install a Unocal executive **as** president of Afghanistan to insure success of a new pipeline, etc.)

There's the abuse of secrecy (Cheney's Enron notes, permanent impoundment of presidential papers)

There are the foxes in the henhouses (Gale Norton, Harvey Pitt, John Poindexter, Henry Kissinger, etc)

There are the Religious extremists in positions of great power (Ashcroft, Rumsfeld, Carl Rove, Bush himself, etc.).

There are the blatant conflicts of interests (Bush and the Carlyle Group; Cheyney and Haliburton, etc.).

There is the intimidation of Congress through warmongering.

There is the ongoing packing of judicial positions with strident pro-wealth political allies.

There is the widespread placement of religious ideologues into government/council positions of great scientific authority.

There is the widespread placement of religious ideologues into important policy making positions, especially with regard to women's' health and reproductory matters.

There is systematic intimidation and disenfranchisement of minority voters (The Florida "felon"-purge, misinforming and intimidation of Florida and other southern minorities, voting machine fraud, etc.)

There is intentional creation of federal budget deficits so that later deep cuts in Social Security, Medicare, and all social programs will seem unavoidable. This is deliberate deception by the Executive and Legislative branches.

There is the proposed Faith-Based Charity program which would give government money to churches, surely to include the Democrat-hating Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, and Sun Myung Moon, a big Bush family benefactor. So the wall of separation between church and state will be undermined.

There is increased spying on American citizens - in the past, these spying frenzies have turned into operations focusing on political dissidents.

There is the erosion of habeas corpus, and the recent decision of the FISA court to allow federal spying on citizens for domestic matters as well as the traditional foreign matters. This gives Ashcroft a secretive way around the traditional court system for obtaining warrants - no public record.

And of course, there are the thousands of right-wing radio programs, spreading hatred and intolerance toward anyone who espouses a compassionate or progressive social agenda, and spurring death threats against outspoken liberals. We need the FCC to strengthen and enforce ownership rules and start looking for other ways to foment diversity and civility in our airwaves. The equal time law has been abandoned, and needs to be reinstated.

Don't you realize where all this abuse of power is leading? Do you have the conviction and courage to stand for what is right, like the late Paul Wellstone?

The wealthy cannot lead this nation by themselves. Their attempt to do so will end in disaster unless people in positions of authority and power begin to turn the tide back toward real democracy. It will take courage and conviction to re-establish democracy, and it will take many dedicated people with these qualities. But the spiritual rewards will be great for those who take up this most honorable of causes.

I am a 48-year-old 21-year employee of Public Service of Colorado (Xcel Energy), make over \$100k per year, and am an influential voice in my community. I was an architect of Xcel's Windsource program and of the Renewable Energy Trust. I have won Denver-wide awards for music composition and theatre work. I have two children plus a wife, I own two guns, own a home plus a separate 35-acre parcel of mountain land, drive a pick-up truck, do carpentry, believe in a higher power, give money to homeless individuals, and I vote in every election.

Speak up against this unraveling of our democracy (any aspect of it), bolster what remains of our safeguards against tyranny, and I'll speak up for you!

I demand my democracy back!

Respectfully, Sincerely and Urgently,

Chuck Rhodes

Denver

From: Kathleen Abernathy
To: KAQUINN
Date: Fri, Feb 14, 2003 8:21 PM
Subject: Fwd: Proposed rules changes for media ownership

From: Matichlocke@aol.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein, KM KJMWEB, Michael Copps, Kathleen Abernathy. Mike Powell
Date: Fri, Feb 14, 2003 8:21 PM
Subject: Proposed rules changes for media ownership

Distinguished Commissioners,

I urge you all to carefully consider the relationship between a healthy functioning democracy and a free and diverse media as you deliberate on proposed changes in media ownership rules. The radio landscape in this nation has become a bleaker place as a result of what I believe to have been shortsighted deregulation, intentionally designed by the most well connected of the regulated parties to allow them greater accumulation of wealth by dominating radio markets. The instruments used to achieve their conquest are, of course, licenses to broadcast over public owned airwaves that require little public service in return and, sadly, favored access to public officials, including some on your commission, that the citizens of our nation trust to protect their interests. It is in the interest of citizens in a vigorous democracy to have access to a diverse expression of viewpoints, opinions, information and experience. The ability of citizens to exercise their rights to free speech, assembly or even thought, essentially requires a healthy variety of media choices. The core rights guaranteed in the first amendment will grow more and more irrelevant as the space required to exercise them is systematically sold to the highest bidder.

Please do not strangle the already weakening civil discourse that has sustained this noble experiment in self government for two centuries. Do not extend the flawed deregulation scheme, now plaguing the nation's radio waves, to the television landscape. We are more than eyeballs or demographic groups. We are Citizens of these still free United States of America and we deserve your respect.

Most Sincerely,

Mark T. Locke

2282 Stow St.
Simi Valley, CA
93063-3510

From: Matichlocke@aol.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein, KM KJMWEB, Michael Copps, Kathleen Abernathy, Mike Powell
Date: Fri, Feb 14, 2003 8:21 PM
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Most Sincerely,

Mark T. Locke

2282 Stow St.
Simi Valley, CA
93063-3510

From: candimc@sbcglobal.net
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Fri. Feb 14, 2003 11:59 PM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

Dear FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein,

I urge the FCC to consider the distinct needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in the development of children.

The relaxation of media ownership rules will result in significantly **less** original programming for children. Relaxation also will reduce competition, potentially stifling innovation and increasing commercialism in children's programming.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Candice Lung
1135 Hill St
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

cc:
Senator Kay Hutchison
Representative Martin Frost
Senator John Cornyn

From: Kathleen Abernathy
To: KAQUINN
Date: Sat, Feb 15, 2003 12:00 AM
Subject: Fwd: Consider The Needs Of Children!

From: candimc@sbcglobal.net
To: KathleenAbernathy
Date: Fri, Feb 14, 2003 11:59 PM
Subject: Consider The Needs **Of** Children!

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy.

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Sincerely,

Candice Lung
1135 Hill St
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

cc:
Senator Kay Hutchison
Representative Martin Frost
Senator John Cornyn

From: judy_hawaii@hotmail.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sat, Feb 15, 2003 9:40 PM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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Sincerely,

Judy Esaki
46-278 Kalua Place
Kaneohe, Hawaii 967444132

cc:
Senator Daniel Inouye
Senator Daniel Akaka

From: Kathleen Abernathy
To: KAQUINN
Date: Sat, Feb 15, 2003 9:40 PM
Subject: Fwd: Consider The Needs Of Children!

From: judy_hawaii@hotmail.com
To: KathleenAbernathy
Date: Sat, Feb 15, 2003 9:40 PM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

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Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Judy Esaki
46-278 Kalua Place
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744-4132

cc:
Senator Daniel Inouye
Senator Daniel Akaka

From: Susan Marie Swanson
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Feb 16, 2003 3:43 PM
Subject: Comments to the Commissioner

Susan Marie Swanson (sms818@earthlink.net) writes:

Dear Mr. Adelstein,

I am writing to voice my opinion that the public interest is served by rules preventing media consolidation. I hope that in forthcoming votes you will support the public interest in diverse media ownership. Please do not relax or eliminate rules preventing media consolidation.

I am an ordinary citizen who is counting on you.

Susan Marie Swanson
1494 **Hythe** Street
St. Paul, MN **55108**

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 63.189.1.213
Remote IP address: 63.189.1.213

From: Atiba Pertilla
To: Atiba Pertilla
Date: Mon, Feb 17, 2003 9:40 AM
Subject: PEJ Study on Media Ownership

Today, the Project for Excellence in Journalism is releasing a new study on media ownership that we believe makes news.

The Federal Communication Commission is proposing to relax limits on media ownership. In doing so, the FCC commissioned 12 studies, but none looked at the content of news and the public interest.

The new PEJ study, which is based on five years of research in local television, 172 stations in 50 markets, some 23,000 stories, does expressly that. The findings are pronounced. Among them:

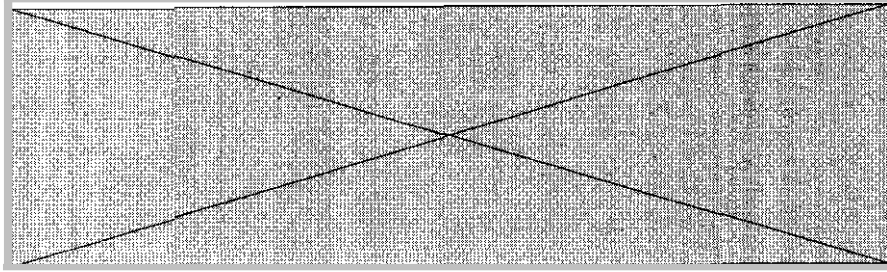
- Very large companies do not fare well.
- Network owned and operated companies do not fare well.
- There are positive signs for cross ownership stations.
- Local ownership is no guarantee of quality, but it is some protection against very low quality.

There are other findings as well in the study. An unofficial hearing organized by some FCC commissioners is being held in Los Angeles on February 18, and the FCC is holding its lone formal hearing February 27 in Richmond.

The study and the data is attached. Please contact us with any questions you might have at 202-293-7394.

I hope you find the study of interest.

Tom Rosenstiel, Director
Project for Excellence in Journalism



EMBARGOED FOR 1 A.M. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2003

**Does Ownership Matter in Local Television News:
A Five-Year Study of Ownership and Quality**

For Further Information Contact:

Tom Rosenstiel, Director, Project for Excellence in Journalism

Amy Mitchell, Associate Director

Atiba Pertilla, Matt Carlson, Tom Avila, Dante Chinni, Nancy Anderson, Staff

Lee Ann Brady, Senior Project Director, Princeton Survey Research Associates